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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Fifty-fifth year

Letter dated 3 March 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Burkina Faso to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour, in my capacity as Chairman of the Islamic Group at the United Nations in New York, to enclose the text of the statement adopted by the Islamic Group at its meeting held on Friday, 3 March 2000, concerning the Israeli acts of aggression against Lebanon (see annex).

I should be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 43, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Paul Robert TIENDREBEOGO
Chargé d'affaires a.i.
Chairman of the Islamic Group

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ANNEX

Statement by the Islamic Group at the United Nations in New York dated 3 March 2000

The Islamic Group at the United Nations in New York expresses its grave concern over the continuation of the brutal Israeli acts of aggression against the Lebanese territories, which on 8 February 2000 claimed Lebanese civilian lives and caused heavy material damages to properties and vital civilian installations, particularly electric power stations.

While condemning these repeated Israeli acts of aggression against the Lebanese territories, as well as Israeli threats to burn Lebanese soil, the Islamic Group reiterates its solidarity with the Government and the people of Lebanon in their struggle for the liberation of the occupied parts of Southern Lebanon and the Western Bekaa, and it reaffirms Lebanon's right to resist the occupation in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and its relevant resolutions and international law and norms.

The Islamic Group further reiterates that these Israeli attacks on Lebanon constitute a flagrant act of aggression against an independent and sovereign State and a serious violation of the terms of the "April Understanding" of 1996, international law and international humanitarian law, particularly the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949. These Israeli acts of aggression clearly expose Israel's intentions to abort the peace process on all tracks and its lack of desire to achieve just, comprehensive and lasting peace in the region.

The Islamic Group calls upon the United Nations and other international organizations and entities and the international community to condemn Israel and to intensify efforts to compel it to put an end to its acts of aggression against Lebanese civilians, civilian installations and other vital economic utilities, to demand that Israel ends its occupation of the Lebanese territories in accordance with Security Council resolution 425 (1978) and to make reparations to Lebanon for the losses and damages resulting from its repeated acts of aggression against Lebanese territories.

The Islamic Group takes this opportunity to extend its profound thanks and appreciation to Member States and other States which have expressed their desire and preparedness to assist the Government of Lebanon in its efforts to repair and reconstruct the civilian infrastructure damaged and destroyed by Israel's acts of aggression, and calls upon the international community to reinforce these efforts.